



Main Idea and Key Details

Today's Standard

4.RI.2 - Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Analyzing news articles for main points; Summarizing historical events in social studies; Identifying main ideas in science texts; Summarizing instructional manuals or guides

Today I Learned

Today, we learned how to find the main idea of a text and how key details support it. This helps us understand and remember what we read.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes, kids think the main idea is the same as the topic, but it's not. The topic is what the text is about, and the main idea is what the author wants to tell us about that topic. Another mistake is thinking all details are important, but only some details help explain the main idea.

Quiz Me

- What is the main idea?
- Can you name one key detail?
- What is the topic of this text?
- How does this detail support the main idea?
- Can you summarize this text in a few sentences?

Help Me

The main idea is what the text wants to tell us. Key details are the important points that help explain the main idea. For example, if you read a book about dogs, the main idea might be that dogs are good pets, and the key details would explain why.